



## Inside

### Feedback

"You have to have ambition and a willingness to learn," said Mainz-Kastel's Linda Tabor in this week's reader feedback on education. See page 2.



### Baghdad battle

Members of the 127th Military Police Company engage insurgents in fierce fighting. See pages 22 and 23.



### Safety stand down

Members of the 485th Corps Support Battalion reach out to community to increase safety awareness. See page 20.



# Herald Union



Vol. XI, No. 23

Serving the military communities of the 104th Area Support Group

Aug. 31, 2004

## News flash

### MWR awards

Several local individuals will be among some 20 Morale Welfare and Recreation operations and individuals to be recognized with 2004 Installation Management Agency-Europe Recreation Awards during the Land Combat Expo in Heidelberg Sept. 28-30. Among those to be honored for providing noteworthy recreation activities and support are: **Outstanding Installation Recreation Program** — 414th Base Support Battalion in the medium community category and 221st BSB in the large community category; **Outstanding Recreation Program, Arts and Crafts** — 221st BSB; **Outstanding Recreation Program, Entertainment** — 414th BSB and 221st BSB; **Outstanding Recreation Program, Outdoor Recreation** — 221st BSB; **Outstanding Recreation Program, Sports and Fitness** — 221st BSB; **Outstanding Recreation Program, Recreation Delivery System** — 221st BSB; **Outstanding Recreation Employee of the Year** — Susanne Dale, 221st BSB fitness coordinator; **Recreation Career Award** — Mildred Ann Burski, 284th BSB community librarian. (IMA-E Public Affairs)

### Celebrating Labor Day

The first observance of Labor Day is believed to have been a parade on Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City, organized by Peter J. McGuire, a Carpenters and Joiners Union secretary. By 1893 more than half the states observed a "Labor Day" on one day or another and a bill to establish a federal holiday was passed by Congress in 1894. President Grover Cleveland signed the bill soon after, designating the first Monday in September as Labor Day. (Courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau)

## Global posture

**Significant portion of U.S. forces to be relocated from Europe to U.S.**

By John D. Banusiewicz and Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

A significant portion of U.S. troop moves caused by a reworking of America's global military posture will come from Europe, said a senior Defense Department official.

Any redeployment of U.S. troops from Europe to the United States or elsewhere, the official told Pentagon reporters Aug. 16, will involve heavy armor and infantry units now based in Germany.

President George Bush announced that about 60,000-70,000 uniformed personnel and about 100,000 family members and civilian employees would be redeployed from overseas bases to the United States over the next decade during an address at the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.

"The world has changed a great deal," Bush said, "and our posture

must change with it for the sake of our military families, for the sake of our taxpayers, and so we can be more effective at projecting our strength and spreading freedom and peace."

America's current force posture in Europe, Bush explained, was designed to guard against Soviet aggression. "The threat no longer exists," he said.

The decision to redistribute forces comes after three years of study and consultations, Bush said. "We've consulted closely with our allies and with Congress. We've examined the challenges posed by today's threats and emerging threats." The result, he said, will be "a more agile and flexible force."

As the new global posture takes shape over the next 10 years, Bush said, more U.S. troops will be stationed at, and deployed from, home bases in the United States.

"We'll move some of our troops  
**See Global on page 4**



Photo by Karl Weisel

Students will find a continued emphasis on mathematics and meeting standards upon their return to school Sept. 7.

## Golden rule days

**Teachers, administrators gear up to welcome students at DoDD schools**

By David Ruderman  
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

With Department of Defense Dependents Schools set to open across the 104th Area Support Group Sept. 7, student enrollments have been short of projections,

said principals and administrators.

"We're right around 300 with our Sure Start kids," said Barbara Mueller, Giessen Elementary School principal. "That is under our projection by about 20 stu-

**See Golden on page 14**

### Latham heads to Central Command

## Williams assumes command of 104th ASG

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Leaders from throughout U.S. Army Europe, German civilian and Bundeswehr officials and the rank and file gathered on Hanau's Yorkhof Kaserne to bid farewell to 104th Area Support Group commander, Col. George A. Latham II, Aug. 3 and to welcome new ASG commander, Col. Herman "Tracy" Williams III, Aug. 18.

Latham moved on to an assignment with the U.S. Central Command at Qatar's Camp As-Sayliyah to serve as director of Force Protection Forward.

"Col. Latham took charge of the 104th just before 9-11," said Russell Hall, Installation Management Agency-Europe director and reviewing official during the relinquishment of command.

"The last three years ... encompass the most dramatic changes this command collectively has experienced since the fall of the Berlin Wall," Hall said. "And the 104th was in the midst of all of it. Whether it was responding to a package with white powder at the post office or organizing the assumption of guard duties by Bundeswehr troops at the gates, the 104th was involved and doing its part to protect Soldiers and families."

Hall praised Latham's leadership during an extremely turbulent time that saw the move to the new Installation Management Agency structure, deployment of the majority of the Soldiers based in 104th ASG communities to Iraq and Kuwait, administration of the Rest and Recu-

**See Command on page 3**



Photo by Karl Weisel

Lt. Gen. William E. Ward (left), USAREUR deputy commander, accepts the 104th ASG colors from Dr. Robert Kandler before passing them to Col. Herman "Tracy" Williams III.



# Commentary

## Feedback: What are the vital elements of a good education?



**Elizabeth Mammina**  
**Hanau Women, Children and Infants-Overseas dietician**

"Well educated teachers who are able to easily convey the information to the students in an understandable way. Also a pleasant learning environment — a safe and peaceful learning environment."



**Pfc. Renee Williams**  
**1st Armored Division, Wiesbaden**

"It depends on how well the teachers teach and how willing kids are to learn. Parents have to ask their children questions about their school and be willing to help them out so they can get a good education."



**Sgt. Harvey Marrow**  
**Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, Baumholder**

"Good study habits and a good place to study."



**Julie Witherspoon**  
**Wiesbaden family member**

"It depends on the kid. Some kids like to read and do schoolwork, where others don't. It depends on how much the kid wants to learn."



**Nicole Beverly**  
**Baumholder family member**

"Good teachers and parental involvement."

## Second thoughts

**Commentary by Karl Weisel**  
*104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office*

### Olympic goodwill

The 2004 Summer Olympics once again dished up a generous helping of poignant moments, feel-good stories, controversial judges' decisions and the chance to see people from all over the world joining together to celebrate common goals and the sheer joy of sportsmanship. Tears of pride, joy and sometimes sorrow at having barely missed out on a medal were shared by spectators the world over.

This year representatives from more than 200 nations marched into the Olympic Stadium in Athens, Greece, to test their mettle on the various fields of play. Despite ongoing turbulence in the world, that's a significant increase from the mere 13 countries represented at the Games in Athens in 1896 when the modern Olympics were launched.

While Olympic records were swept aside and replaced by faster times, distances and others units of measurement as always happens, perhaps some of the greatest benchmarks were those that occurred even before the Games began. As the Olympic torch made its way across six continents, 27 countries and more than 75,000 miles from Sydney to Athens, both the proud torchbearers and those who witnessed the feat were made aware of the harmony and unity that is still possible among all the nations of the world.

This year marked the return of athletes from Iraq after having been denied the chance to compete in 1996 and 2000. This year saw a team from Afghanistan comprised of both men and women — the first time Afghani women have competed for their country. Viewers of the opening ceremonies were also treated to the sight of North and South Korean athletes marching together into the stadium — a hope for reunification in the future.

When Frenchman Baron Pierre de

Coubertin sought to revive the Olympics in the 19th century it was with the idea of providing a setting where nations could compete on the field of play rather than on the battlefield. His idea reflected the ideals of the ancient Olympics that began in Greece in 776 B.C. or even earlier at which time all conflicts were to be stopped during the Games.

The 2004 Summer Olympics have ended, but hopefully the sentiments of joining together to achieve greatness will last for some time to come.

### Sorting out the truth

In a perfect world people get along with one another, don't steal from one another and can be counted on to tell the truth — all the time. Unfortunately we don't live in a perfect world and learning to decipher the "truths" from the "not necessarily truths" is part of growing up.

As we make our way in the world we are constantly confronted with the challenge of deciding whether what we are being told is in fact true. From the highway signs which warn of speed limits being "strictly enforced" to the television advertisements which promise the fountain of youth in a pill bottle, we are bombarded by half-truths, omissions and sometimes downright lies. Unfortunately the very people we would expect to be held up to the highest standards — our elected officials and politicians — are those who seem to have a different idea of exactly what the truth means.

As parents one of our greatest endeavors and achievements is to raise children who recognize that telling the truth is one of the most honorable facets of being a member of the human race. Helping them recognize those who can be trusted to tell the truth from those who can't tell the difference is also vitally important.

Our deeds speak louder than words — and being truthful ranks right up there in the grand scheme of deeds to be cherished.

## Welcome back to school

**By Dr. Archie W. Bates**

*Kaiserslautern District superintendent*



It is with pleasure that I welcome all of you to the 2004-2005 school year.

The Kaiserslautern District is committed to Goal No. 1 of the Department of Defense Education Activity Community Strategic Plan: high expectations for academic achievement and character development. Our efforts in this area include analyzing test data, not only by district and by school but also by student, to

ensure we meet the needs of all students.

As always we are interested in working with parents and community members. As we know from the research, parental involvement in a child's education is a key to student success.

We invite you to come to school board meetings, School Advisory Council meetings, Installation Advisory Committee meetings and Town Hall Meetings where issues regarding education are discussed.

Our schools have open doors for parent visitation. We welcome you and embrace your ideas for how we can make our schools, which are very good, even better.

## Herald Union

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# News and features

## Newsflash

### Armed Forces Voters Week

During Armed Forces Voters Week which kicks off Sept. 3 visit the online Federal Voting Assistance Program website to fill out an absentee ballot request and obtain more information about voting. Visit the 104th Area Support Group's home page at [www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil](http://www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil) and click on "Online voting assistance" at the top of the page.

### Changes in naturalization procedures

Service members can take advantage of recent legislation that eliminates the \$320 naturalization fee and allows filing overseas for U.S. citizenship at embassies and consulates starting Oct. 1. After that date U.S. military members who apply to become U.S. citizens will no longer have to pay the filing fee and travel to one of several locations in the United States to be interviewed and sworn in as citizens, as a result of changes to the Immigration and Nationality Act. The changes apply only to military members, not family members. U.S. Army Europe officials estimate there are some 3,200 Soldiers in Europe who are not U.S. citizens who could be affected by the changes if they seek U.S. citizenship. For more information visit the [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) website. (Courtesy of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security)

### Life insurance open season

The Office of Personnel Management announces the first open season for the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program in five years to be held Sept. 1-30. Eligible employees can make a selection by visiting the Employee Benefits Information System website at <https://www.abc.army.mil> or by calling civ (0800) 101 0282. (ABC-C News)

### Commissary case lot sale

Commissaries will feature another worldwide case lot sale on or around Sept. 24. Visit [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com) for a schedule and description of products to be offered. (DeCA-Europe Public Affairs)



### Soldiers to be reclassified

More than 4,000 administrative specialists, 42L, will be reclassified into other Military Occupational Specialties as the Army restructures the adjutant general field. Some will be reclassified into the Human Resources Specialist MOS while others will be provided with other MOS options. All Soldiers in U.S. Army Europe will have a chance to speak with a representative from the Personnel Human Resource Command at the Land Combat Expo Sept. 28-30 at Heidelberg's Village Pavilion. There will be a representative from each of the divisions in the Enlisted Personnel Management Division including Combat Arms, Combat Support and Combat Service Support available to speak with Soldiers who have questions at the expo. (USAREUR Public Affairs)

### Keep pests out of U.S.

Europe has many agricultural pests that don't exist in the United States and could cause great damage to the farming economy there. "You can easily introduce pests into the USA," said William Manning, U.S. Department of Agriculture attache to the European Command. It only takes a bit of soil on your car, lawn furniture, bicycle, shoe, boot or field gear. "For example, the burrowing nematode is a tiny worm not native to the States," he said, "that could hide in the mud on your boots. If you took that mud stateside, the nematode eggs could later hatch and attack the roots of citrus trees." That is why it is important to clean everything you ship or mail home. Visit the Customs website at [www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/customs.htm](http://www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/customs.htm) for more information. (EUCOM Customs Release)



Photos by Karl Weisel

## New look at Hanau High

Workers finish up an eight-week construction project at Hanau American High School in preparation for the start of school Sept. 7. The project included remodeling the teachers' lounge, nurse's office and entranceway, and tiling the first floor and steps leading up to the library, said Herb Carman, 414th BSB schools support and dependent misconduct officer.

## Command . . . . .

### Continued from page 1

operation program for Operation Iraqi Freedom service members and a never-ending focus on taking care of families and Soldiers in garrison. "Col. Latham led the charge in supporting the deploying troops, as well as their family members."

When the decision was made to extend 1st Armored Division Soldiers beyond their initial 12-month deployment to Iraq, Hall said, the ASG and its commander quickly sprang into action. "When word of an extension for 1st AD troops surfaced, Col. Latham, his staff and BSBs (base support battalions) were already leaning forward in that direction, having established hotlines for families, extending ACS (Army Community Service) hours and basically doing so much to alleviate the anxieties of so many spouses and children — even before the official announcement was made," Hall said.

"If ever a commander set the standard, you've certainly done it," he said.

"This is my first tour in Germany and every minute of every day of every week has been wide open and high adventure," said Latham, describing the various challenges of his command from the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, to the present. Increased force protection, non-stop deployments, a trip to Iraq to plan redeployment and various other challenges have kept ASG and BSB officials extremely busy. "Throughout this time master planning and renovations never missed a beat," Latham said. "As you travel the 104th you will see projects going in every BSB, and they will continue."

"Bottom line — we all did this together," said Latham, praising the close cooperation between the many organizations, from local schools to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, which support community members. "The garrison is a nucleus of the larger community. ... As this great three years comes to an end I thank everyone who supported the ASG and BSBs in accomplishing our missions."

Williams said he was "extremely appreciative and honored to have the opportunity to serve here in Germany," during remarks at the Aug. 18 assumption of command ceremony at the 104th ASG Headquarters. "Thank you to the citizens and governments of Hessen and Rheinland-Pfalz. You are gracious hosts to our Soldiers, civilian work force and their families. This support and cooperation is invaluable to the

readiness of our units. ... I'm honored to lead and serve with an exceptionally outstanding work force of civilians and Soldiers who will continue to do their best everyday to provide the best possible service for Soldiers, civilians and their families."

Lt. Gen. William E. Ward, USAREUR deputy commander, passed the ASG colors to Williams, symbolizing the change of command. During remarks he praised the many efforts of ASG and BSB staffs in consistently supporting Soldiers and their families before, during and after Operation Iraqi Freedom deployments. "Your commitment and long hours have been rewarded with the return of these Soldiers and joyous reunions of so many families. It really brings tears to your eyes to see their happiness, and you in this ASG have been the mainstay of their support — the backbone that kept families going — during some most trying times."

Joachim Jacobi, undersecretary for the State of Hessen's Department of Education and Culture, spoke on behalf of Hessen Minister President Roland Koch, tracing the long, close ties between Germans and Americans. "The U.S. forces are heartily welcomed by us in Hessen," he said, praising American efforts to safeguard peace and freedom, and personal contacts between Germans and Americans.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Col. Herman "Tracy" Williams III, the 104th ASG's new commander, addresses Soldiers and civilians during his assumption of command ceremony Aug. 18.

## Signal battalion to hold IMO Conference Sept. 22

The 102nd Signal Battalion will host an Information Management Officers Conference Sept. 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Activities Center on Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

All signal officers, IMOs and other interested personnel

are invited to attend. Topics include the migration process, lessons learned, migration of Exchange 5.5 servers, decommissioning NT domains, network accreditations, U.S. Army Europe email and the Enterprise Licensing Agreement. Call Winfred Robinson at mil 337-5929 for more information.



# News and features

## Engineers train for Iraq duty

**Live-fire convoy exercise helps Soldiers prepare for deployment**

**By Capt. Erica Iverson**  
*Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 565th Engineer Battalion*

"Put down the fruit. Drop it. Back up and turn around," yelled 2nd Lt. Andrew Sawyer, maintenance platoon leader of the 502nd Engineer Company (Multi-role Bridge) to an "Iraqi vendor," role-played by another Soldier in the unit.

Members of the 502nd Engineer Company were taking part in mission-readiness training (Renegade Warrior), organized by their parent unit, the 565th Engineer Battalion, in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Iraq.

The Hanau-based 502nd supported both Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom from March to October 2003 as part of the 130th Engineer Brigade and is returning for a second tour. The unit made headlines for constructing the "Birthday Bridge," the longest assault float-bridge built under combat conditions, which spanned the Tigris River in Tikrit on Saddam Hussein's birthday, April 28, 2003.

Upon redeployment to Germany in October, the 38th Engineer Company (Medium Girder Bridge) and the 502nd Engineer Company (Assault Float Bridge) merged to form a new multi-role bridge company.

The first phase of Renegade Warrior training focused on mastery of the Situational Training Exercise lanes at the Aschaffenberg Training Area. Many of the situations common in Iraq were incorporated into the exercises. One platoon was given the mission of conducting base camp security and guarding a traffic control point. While the Soldiers guarded the point they encountered mock situations that distracted them from their mission.

Demonstrators, reporters, peddlers, a pregnant suicide bomber and anti-coalition forces were among a cast of role-players presenting challenges to control of the area by the 502nd Soldiers. Other training included reactions to roadside attacks with explosive devices and chemical attacks, and performing first aid.

"We went out to focus on specific tasks, and after the crawl phase on the first day the teams and unit cohesion were more solid," said Maj. Wendell Stevens, 565th Engineer Battalion executive officer. "Confidence was more prevalent in the Soldiers, and a greater respect for the junior and company leadership grew with each mission. Through this realistic training we emphasized the basics, and everyone was able to see the individual and company progress in making the company battle-ready."

Phase two of the exercise included a convoy from Aschaffenberg to the Grafenwöhr Training Area. In



**Photo by Capt. Erica Iverson**

**Soldiers of the 502nd Engineer Company pull security against Iraqi protesters at the Situational Training Exercise lanes at the Aschaffenberg Training Area.**

Grafenwöhr the 502nd conducted multiple qualification ranges where Soldiers qualified on their assigned weapons.

"This was the first time most of us had been to these ranges, so it was all new and relevant training," said Sgt. Jose Santamaria. "Even with the rain, it only added to the experience."

The Convoy Live-fire Exercise was the final phase of training. Each convoy consisted of six vehicles, and each had a command and control element from the platoon leader and platoon sergeant down to the squad level.

"Enemy on the left, initiate fire," yelled Staff Sgt. Daniel Deboer, as he directed his Soldiers over the sound of bullets. As the vehicles drove through the six-mile long path, they encountered simulated attacks by rocket-propelled grenades, roadside explosives, sniper fire and an attack. Each Soldier was put to the test, with the final challenge being a vehicle ambush in which emergency first-aid and a medical evacuation by helicopter was performed.

"Overall we executed all training to a new standard," said Deboer. "Soldiers have been complacent, but in the training from the last two weeks new Soldiers were exposed to the real-world scenarios and it hit home."

"It's been a long time since our company has done good training like that," said Spc. Jack Longmire, a wheeled vehicle mechanic. "As a mechanic we're usually left out of the hands-on training. But we all learned a lot through this."

"I'm a lot more comfortable going into Iraq this second round," he added. "We at least know what to expect this time."

The 502nd Engineer Company will deploy to Iraq early this fall, under the command of Capt. Joshua Stringer, where it will provide bridging support.

## School news

### Child Find and special education

Child Find is a Department of Defense Dependents Schools program that actively seeks to identify children and youths, from birth to age 21, who may have developmental delays or educational disabilities and may need special education and related services.

"We don't do formal screenings like we used to in the old days," said Sue Gurley, Case Study Committee chairwoman for DoDDS-Europe, "but we are open to looking at anyone who is recommended for screening."

Recommendations may come from classroom teachers who sense a learning impairment of some sort or from parents who are concerned about their child's behavior, she said.

Child Find activities conducted in the school may include teacher observations, parent observations and conferences to discuss a child's strengths and needs. They may lead to a formal process designed to further explore ways to assist the child, and may ultimately result in a recommendation for special education services.

There are about 4,000 children DoDDS-E-wide who receive some kind of special education, said Gurley. That includes about 1,000 children in the Heidelberg District and about 1,200 in the Kaiserslautern District.

"All of our districts very closely mirror the 9-11 percent rate of schools at large in the United States," she said.

Parents who have concerns about their child's development can help the child develop to his or her fullest potential by contacting their local school, Educational and Developmental Intervention Services or the pediatric clinic in their military hospital. All can provide information about Child Find and can schedule a screening if it is needed.

"Sometimes schools will offer preschool screenings, and those are usually announced in the community," said Gurley.

Contact your child's school and ask for the Case Study Committee chairperson or call mil 338-7219 for details.

### SAC lets parents voice concerns, influence decisions

One of the most important groups within a school community is the School Advisory Committee, said school officials.



"It is the chief vehicle for parents and teachers to have a voice in the decision-making operations of a school," said Dr. Archie W. Bates, superintendent of the Kaiserslautern District. Newly elected SAC members will join returning SAC members for annual training early in the school year.

The Defense Dependents Education Act of 1978 established a SAC for each school. The committees are composed of an equal number of parents of students enrolled in the school and full-time professional employees of the school.

Representatives from the district superintendent's offices provide SAC members with ongoing training and orientation programs. Training covers such topics as group dynamics, parliamentary procedures, goal setting, needs assessments and problem-solving techniques. Each school principal is responsible for providing SAC members with data regarding the school and its programs.

"SAC training is held annually to assist elected officials in effectively using the advisory process to bring about school improvement and to provide a voice for all stakeholders in school decision making and operations," said Jody Black, curriculum liaison and SAC trainer with the Kaiserslautern District.

For more information contact your local school office or superintendent's office. (Courtesy of the Kaiserslautern District Superintendent's Office)

## Global . . . . .

**Continued from page 1**

and capabilities to new locations so they can surge quickly to deal with unexpected threats," Bush said. "We'll take advantage of 21st century military technologies to rapidly deploy increased combat power."

The new plan, the president said, will strengthen U.S. alliances and build new partnerships around the world, and will reduce stress on military people and their families.

Taxpayers will benefit from cost savings realized by closing obsolete overseas bases and facilities, the president said.

"It's not our goal to have a shift of our forces to the east" from Germany, the DoD official said, noting that U.S. troops would likely rotate in and out of eastern Europe to conduct joint exercises with allied nations.

Any realignments from Germany are unlikely to occur until fiscal 2006, said another DoD official.

## Send video greetings through Army program

By Cassandra Kardeke

221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

While we like to consider ourselves one big Army family, we're really a cross section made up of men and women from all walks of life. Whether we're just diminishing the piles on a desk, training in the woods of Germany or deployed, we all share something in common. We are normally from somewhere else, a place we fondly think of as home.

There is a link between duty in a faraway land and family back in that place we call home. It is the Army and Air Force Hometown News Service, a service offered free of charge to recognize the achievements of men and women serving in the military to an audience back home.

"Most Soldiers have heard of the Hometown News Program but don't take advantage of their services," said Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Smith, 221st Base Support Battalion.

Services include hometown news releases, video and radio greetings and their holiday greetings program.

Soldiers, family members and civilians throughout the Wiesbaden military communities will get a chance to wish their families back home a happy holiday season courtesy of the holiday greeting program. Two teams will set up at Wiesbaden Army Airfield and Anderson Barracks in Dexheim to produce video greetings.

The team will be located on the 1st Armored Division parade field Sept. 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the team will film inside the pavilion outside the airfield bowling center. Another team will set up Sept. 22 outside the dining facility at Anderson Barracks.

"All military, Department of Defense civilians and their families are eligible for the free program," said Donna Dean, 221st BSB public affairs officer. "It doesn't matter what branch of service you represent or where you live; however,

if you are an active duty service member, you must be in uniform."

No appointment is necessary, just show up. Units wishing to block time for their Soldiers should call the Public Affairs Office at mil 337-5772 in advance to schedule a time.

Taping a video greeting is fairly simple. A form must be completed before taping the greeting with the complete address of the family members in the United States.

Teams also have sample greetings available for those not sure of what to say. The 15-20 second video greetings are sent to television and cable stations throughout the United States based on the recipient's address and will be aired during the holiday season.

Although summer is just nearing its end, it's not too soon to prepare for the upcoming holiday season. Contact the Public Affairs Office for more information or to arrange an appointment time.

### New to the area?

#### Welcome to Wiesbaden

Newcomers to Wiesbaden are encouraged to attend Army Family Team Building's Welcome to Wiesbaden classes held the first and third Monday of the month at the Newcomer's Information Center in Room 240 at the American Arms Hotel. Call mil 337-5754 or civ (0611) 705-5754 for information and to register.

#### Family inprocessing

Spouse and family member inprocessing training is conducted by the 221st Base Support Battalion. Learn about services and activities available in the community and life in Germany. Sessions are held every Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. Call mil 337-5034/5754 or civ (0611) 705-5034/5754 to sign up.

#### AFTB marathon training

Sprint through the first three levels of Army Family Team Building Training Sept. 13-15 and 20-22. AFTB instructor courses will be held Sept. 27-29. Classes will be held at Army Community Service in Hainerberg Housing from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information and to

sign up call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

#### AFTB for youth

The Army Family Team Building program offers classes and workshops for youths. Classes are limited to 15 students and are offered at Army Community Service, Room 22. To sign up or for more information call mil 337-5754 or civ (0611) 705-5754.

#### WCSC Open House

The Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club hosts an annual Open House at the Community Activities Center Sept. 8 from noon to 2 p.m. The Open House features all community activities, organizations and services available to Soldiers, civilians and family members assigned to 221st Base Support Battalion communities. For more information call civ (06122) 935 584.

#### Nutrition classes

The Wiesbaden Women, Infants and Children-Overseas office offers free nutrition classes the third Tuesday of the month. Classes are held at 1:30 p.m. at the WIC-O office, Building 7005 in Crestview Housing. For information call mil 338-7366 or civ (0611) 380-7366.